

FASHION'S LATEST WORD IN SMART CREATIONS

BY FRANCES MARSHALL

Did You Have New Easter Boots?

Did you wear a new pair of boots on Easter Sunday? Footwear has taken place of bonnets in the interest of fashionable women this spring. To be sure, hats are fascinating, but important as the spring hat is the spring footwear is more important. And it is a fact that in the various Easter parades more attention was paid to

stockings, spats and shoes than to hats, veils and coiffures.

There is hardly any distinguishing mark of spring footwear. So many are the varieties shown that one cannot be called predominant.

All boots and shoes, however, save those strictly planned for sports wear are made with a curved French heel. That is one characteristic of them all.

As for the way they are fastened up, both high boots and low shoes, they are fastened in every conceivable way. Sometimes they are buttoned. Boots have rather large buttons. Low shoes have a single button or two at one side of the instep.

Low shoes are laced at the side, and high boots are laced in front, at the side, or at the back, from the top of the French heel to the edge of the cloth or kid top. The boots laced at the back therefore present an unbroken expanse of kid or cloth across the instep, and so do those that lace at the side. These shoes look odd now, and rather plain, used as we are to the breaking line of front fastening. But they do show the fabric of the upper part of the boot to advantage, and when this matches the frock the effect is decidedly pleasing.

Almost all shoes worn by fashionable women have two fabrics combined in their make-up, usually two colors.

White, sand or putty seems to be the favorites for the quarters or uppers and black in dull mat kid or patent leather for the vamps or lower sections. This two-toned effect is carried out not only in the high shoes, but in the low shoes as well, and a boot or shoe looks almost odd if there is no contrast of this sort.

One would think that with the coming of spring that the high shoe would be going out, but such is not the case. Especially with the short skirts there is a trimness about the high shoe that cannot be duplicated in a low shoe. High shoes are a little higher this season than before, four-

teen buttons being the usual height now, while twelve buttons used to be considered normal.

Oxfords are to have their day, and to some women whose feet never look their best in a colonial or pump this comes as a blessing, but shoe dealers tell us that women are a little more reticent about wearing the new side laced boots than one might expect.

As one looks at the tempting display in the shoe dealers' windows one grows impatient for the warm days that will bring us back on the tennis courts and the seashore again, for never before have sport shoes been so attractive as they are this season. The day was not so very long ago when a sport shoe suggested something rather formidable, something that one had to don the last thing on going on the court and hurried away into one's locker as soon as the set was over. Golf boots in those days suggested the heavy footwear of some day laborer so heavy and graceless were they in cut and design. But nowadays sport shoes are as dainty and as fetching as any other shoes and by some magic skill the shoe manufacturers have managed to contrive a shoe that is serviceable and sensible with one that is eminently feminine.

The gaiter is much worn with low shoes, and many high ones are made in gaiter fashion. This is supposed to make the body of the foot look smaller.

Without doubt the new attention paid to footwear is due to the extremely short skirt which Paris has made fashionable. Some of the Persian dressmakers have decreed ten inches above the ground as the correct length for the wide, full skirt. Of course, it is quite true that this short, wide skirt calls for a perfectly shod foot. Some of the French dressmakers think it calls for a very high boot, with leg portions almost eighteen inches long, fitting with glove-like smoothness.

These boots are made often of gray antelope and are soft and flexible.

So far skirts have not been generally accepted on this side of the water as short as ten inches above the ground. But they are getting shorter and shorter and fuller and fuller, and nobody will be surprised at the ten-inch skirt when it comes. The full skirt, when it is long, is difficult to wear. When it is short, no matter how full it is, it is comfortable and pleasant to wear.

So if the very full skirt is to be the skirt of the summer, then we are glad that it is also to be a very short skirt.



Gown of blue faille, with ruckings of white and buttons of black.



Embroidered white taffeta coat suit.



Some of the new boots and shoes that are worn with the excessively short skirt of spring.



Putty taffeta frock, with corded spiral ruffle. With it are worn black patent leather pumps with putty buckskin trimmings, and silk stockings to match.



Frock of black net and white lace, made with white satin lining and jacket.



Blouse of checked taffeta, with long sleeves and high collar.



Tennis costume—short white serge skirt, checked jacket, sailor hat of shiny black straw, white buckskin shoes.